

Appl. No. 10/698,233
Amendment before first Office Action
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REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

By the current amendment, the specification has been amended, claims 39, 48, 50 and 59 have been amended, and claims 40 and 51 have been cancelled, all without prejudice. No new matter has been added by the present amendment, as support thereof can be found in the present specification at, *inter alia*, page 8, lines 10-12. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, allowance of this application is most respectfully requested.

II. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended herein to remove the claim to domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 as being a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/883,734, filed June 18, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/452,346, filed December 1, 1999, and 09/311,126, filed May 13, 1999.

Thus, the present application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/629,335, filed August 1, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,645,645, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/207,330, filed May 30, 2000.

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III. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 39, 48, 50 and 59 have been amended herein, and claims 40 and 51 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Specifically, claim 39 has been amended to include the limitations of now-cancelled claim 40, and claim 50 has been amended to include the limitations of now-cancelled claim 51.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and requests that such action be taken. If for any reason the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application would be advanced by contact with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
KENYON & KENYON LLP

Dated: October 23, 2006

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